

**AGENDA ITEM VI A**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY - SHREVEPORT**

**M.S. - COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

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###### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP) at LSU-Shreveport was initially granted conditional approval by the Board of Regents in December 2000. Lastly, in August 2002, the Board acted as follows:

**The Board of Regents receives the Progress Report from Louisiana State University at Shreveport Relative to Implementation of the M.S. in Counseling Psychology. By May 1, 2003, Louisiana State University-Shreveport and Louisiana Tech University shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a joint report which documents the development of substantive collaborative/cooperative efforts between the M.S. program in Counseling Psychology at LSU-S and the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology at Louisiana Tech University. All possibilities which would significantly enhance student learning opportunities and maximize the use of resources should be fully explored.**

There is no record that this report was ever received by staff. The reasons for this missing information are somewhat unclear, however. Staff then requested a new response. In October 2008, Dr. Sisson submitted a progress report drafted on behalf of the Chairs of the Departments of Psychology at both LSUS and Louisiana Tech. In summary, it chronicled events that occurred since initial program approval in 2000, noting meetings that were held between the two institutions to discuss collaboration efforts.

###### **STAFF SUMMARY**

Both universities attest that the foci of the two programs are significantly different, thus limiting both curricular and practical collaborative opportunities. The M.S. program at LSU-S focuses solely on the educational needs of clinical-based practitioners desiring a terminal educational experience. Conversely, students enrolling in the Ph.D. program at Louisiana Tech are pursuing opportunities in either/or/and professional practice and/or an academic or research career. Very few students enroll in the doctoral program at Louisiana Tech following completion of the M.S. at LSUS. For those that do, Louisiana Tech welcomes LSUS M.S. graduate applicants into its Ph.D. program and recognizes previously earned credits as appropriate. Lastly, Dr. Sisson notes that “there is no competition between the two programs, and the interaction between the departments and the students, while limited, is collegial and productive.”

The staff thanks both institutions for efforts addressing Regents' concerns for possible collaboration and is satisfied with the content of this report. As all stipulations associated with the initial approval granted in 2000 and 2002 have been fulfilled, no further progress reports are necessary. Lastly, staff recommends that the LSUS program be granted full program approval.

#### ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the October 2008 Progress Report from Louisiana State University in Shreveport and Louisiana Tech University Relative to Possible Collaboration Between Related Graduate Programs in Counseling Psychology. Given that all stipulations associated with initial, conditional approval of the M.S. program in Counseling Psychology at LSUS have been fulfilled, no further progress reports are necessary. As such, the staff further recommends that full program approval be granted at this time.***